

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Westlund, Walker

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/15, 5/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Permits creation of heritage districts. Allows heritage districts to be formed by two or more counties. Provides for heritage district board membership, election, and powers. Authorizes heritage district boards to assess, levy, and collect taxes to pay costs of acquiring, constructing, altering, operating, and maintaining heritage sites and structures; to establish and maintain heritage society programs; and to issue general obligation bonds, not to exceed two and one-half percent of market value of taxable property within the district. Limits taxation to maximum of one-fourth of one percent of market value of taxable property within the district.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Jackson County voter approval of funds for historical society
- Appropriate tax compression sequence

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes provision indicating fund credit balances need not be taken into consideration in preparing districts annual budget. Resolves conflicts with SB 773 which eliminates references to metropolitan service districts in certain provisions applicable to districts generally and that conflict with or are superseded by more specific provisions applicable to metropolitan service districts.

BACKGROUND: ORS 198.010 and 198.335 provide for the creation of 28 types of local service (“special”) districts, including water control, irrigation, ports, regional air quality control, fire, hospital, mass transit, sanitary, people’s utility, domestic water supply, cemetery, park and recreation, metropolitan service, road, highway lighting, health, vector control, weather modification, chemical control, weed control, diking, and soil and water conservation. The most recently-authorized local service districts are geothermal heating (1975), transportation (1977), library (1981), 9-1-1 communications (1987 & 1989), joint water and sanitary authority (1993), fair (2003), and airport (2003). Legislation in 2001 changed their over-all name from “special districts” to “local service districts”. Local service districts are financed through property taxes or fees for services, or some combination thereof. The majority of local service districts are directed by a governing body elected by voters of the district.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.